

axis within the housing to feed comminuted cellulosic fibrous material, and a shear edge formed in the inlet at the portion thereof closest to the rotor at the most downstream portion of the inlet in the direction of rotation; said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) stopping rotation of the pocketed rotor;
- (b) cutting out the shear edge to form a recess in the housing;
- (c) forming fastener receiving openings in the housing adjacent the recess;
- (d) installing a shear plate in the recess, the shear plate having a shear edge, fastening the shear plate to the housing with fasteners extending into the fastener receiving openings so that the shear edge of the shear plate is adjacent where the original shear edge of the housing was, and so that it functions to minimize entry of material into the clearance between the rotor and the housing, and to shear any large material that attempts to enter the clearance; and
- (e) restarting operation of the star feeder so as to feed comminuted cellulosic fibrous material from the inlet to the outlet.

17. (Amended) A star feeder assembly associated with a comminuted cellulosic material treatment vessel, comprising:

a star assembly comprising: a generally cylindrical housing having an interior and an inlet and outlet cooperating with the interior; a pocketed rotor mounted in said interior and rotatable in a direction of rotation with respect to said housing so that each pocket thereof, during rotation, moves from a position in communication with said inlet to a position in communication with said outlet, in a direction of rotation thereof; said